

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

6 April 1981

DOCUMENT 1-92/81

Oral Questions

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

**for QUESTION TIME
on 6 and 8 april 1981**

1. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-687/80)

Subject: Secretarial jobs at risk

What steps does the Commission believe should be taken to avoid a situation where up to five million secretaries¹ in Europe over the next 10 years could become redundant as a result of the introduction of micro-technology, particularly the use of small computers, word processors, facsimile machines and computerised telephone terminals?

2. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-691/80)

Subject: Nuclear fallout

Is the Commission aware of reports and the opinion of nuclear experts that a radioactive cloud produced by China's last nuclear test on October 16, 1980, will produce radioactive fallout that will affect the entire Northern Hemisphere next spring?

3. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-704/80)

Subject: Examination of Forestry Division

In December, Commissioner Burke told the Parliament that 'the Commission is currently examining the most effective way of organizing the work of the forestry and environment division...' Since a thorough review was undertaken in 1978 and implemented in 1979, what is the purpose of another examination so soon?

4. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-836/80)²

Subject: Alternative use of agricultural products

Does the Commission not think that it would be more to the point to find alternative uses for agricultural products than to reduce production?

And if so, what action has the Commission taken to investigate alternative uses for agricultural products?

¹ International Labour Office Report, published 13.11.1980.

² Former oral question with debate (0-30/80), transformed into a question for question time.

5. Question by Mr LANGES (H-1/81)¹

Subject: Bureaucratic restrictions on small and medium-sized undertakings exporting goods and services

The object of the European Community is to remove barriers between the individual countries of the Community.

This is the goal we have been working towards since the Community's inception.

However, anyone who looks into this question carefully will be surprised to find how high the barriers between the individual Community countries still are. There is a mass of bureaucratic restrictions which particularly affect exports of goods or services by handicraft businesses, i.e. small and medium-sized undertakings.

I should like to illustrate this point with an example involving Luxembourg and Germany:

In the annex to my question I have given a broad outline of the bureaucratic formalities still required to obtain a work permit for a handicraft business, where it is also necessary to arrange for the provisional export of the tools of the trade.

1. Does the Commission take the view that these bureaucratic restrictions are self-evident and necessary?
2. What approaches will the Commission make to the governments concerned to remove these bureaucratic restrictions?
3. What support does the Commission require from the European Parliament to put a stop to this nonsense?

6. Question by Mr VIE (H-699/80)

Subject: Openness of European frontiers

Can the Commission confirm that it authorized Italy to import 1 million tonnes of maize free of duty, despite the fact that Community maize production is in surplus, and that during the GATT talks, it authorized the import into Community countries of 8,8 milliard francs' worth of competitive produce from third countries? If so, does it not consider that it has thus arrogated to itself the power to turn the common market into the reverse of what was intended?

¹ Former oral questions with debate (0-66/80), transformed into a question for question time

7. Question by Mr GERONIMI (H-837/80)¹

Subject: Derogation on the Community drivers' hours regulation

- Whereas many essential economic, social and Community services in peripheral and island regions are being terminated as a direct consequence of the new Community rules on drivers' hours, which came into force on 1 January 1981;
 - Whereas EEC legislation already permits individual drivers to drive small goods vehicles for periods of up to 9 hours per day (as opposed to the standard 8-hour daily period) twice-weekly, provided that maximum weekly and fortnightly limits are not exceeded;
 - Considering this flexibility does not extend to articulated vehicles or drawbar combinations exceeding 20 tonnes gross vehicle weight despite the fact that many operators serving islands and peripheral areas are forced to use such vehicles for essential economic survival;
 - Recognizing the need for stringent enforcement of drivers' hours legislation but, at the same time, taking into account their social implications on isolated communities;
1. Will the Commission propose a minor derogation on Drivers' Hours Legislation which applies to 'heavy' goods vehicles servicing islands and isolated communities allowing individual drivers to include two nine-hour periods in their working week - weekly and fortnightly periods unaltered;
 2. And will the Commission apply this derogation only to vehicles operating from island headquarters or from mainland bases more than 50 miles (80 km) from a motorway?

8. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-841/80)²

Subject: Fixing of fish quotas

According to information concerning the proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council on fish quotas, the French quota has been reduced in recent weeks, falling to a figure of 12% on 21 January 1981, while those of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom have been substantially increased - by 2%.

¹ Former oral question with debate (0-77/80), transformed into a question for question time

² Former oral question with debate (0-81/80), transformed into a question for question time

The Commission has also announced that it intends to review these figures and that in the case of France it feels the quota should be reduced still further. Does the Commission intend to proceed further on those lines?

9. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-761/80)

Subject : United Nations International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

What is the European Community doing for the United Nations International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, given that half the world's population (2000 million men, women and children) are suffering from water shortages or disease caused by defective water supplies?

10. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-43/81)

Subject : Heavy fuel oil prices and taxes

Does the Commission consider that different national prices and taxes on heavy fuel oil are disadvantageous to some national industries, particularly relative to their Japanese, U.S. and EEC competitors and does the Commission propose measures of harmonisation in this matter?

11. Question by Mr ADAM (H-769/80)

Subject: Coal demand in 2000

It has recently been stated by the Energy Department of the United Kingdom Government that the coal demand in the year 2000 is likely to fall to 155 million tonnes, which represents a downward revision from the previous figure of 170 million tonnes. This comes at a time when future demand for coal is reckoned by all the experts to be increasing. Does the Commission accept that this is a realistic assessment?

12. Question by Mrs EWING (H-784/80)

Subject: Upsurge of United States' imports into the EEC

What progress has the Commission achieved in its discussions with the United States' Administration on the problem of the upsurge of United States' imports into the EEC and particularly into the United Kingdom; what action is proposed and to what extent will it meet the Councils requirement that their discussions should cover the whole range of problems and all possible solutions?

13. Question by Ms QUIN (H-794/80)

Subject: Income support for workers aged 55 and over leaving the shipbuilding industry

Will the Commission make a statement about the progress made in consideration of the Commission proposal to provide income support for workers aged 55 and over leaving the shipbuilding industry - a proposal which was welcomed by the European Parliament at its December 1980 part-session?

14. Question by Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN (H-808/80)

Subject: Percentage of women employees in Commission's upper grades

In June 1976, the Commission stated that 2.4% of the staff in the A4 grade of the Commission were women, and 4.7% in the A5 grade were women, whereas 83.37% in the C3 grade were women. Will the Commission now give the up-to-date percentage figures of women employed in these grades?

15. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-810/80)

Subject: Meat factories

Given that the derogation granted to meat factories in the six counties of Northern Ireland as regards the basic index for calculating variable premiums has led to distortions, is the Commission prepared to take urgent steps to ensure application of a uniform system for the calculation of premiums, in particular for Great Britain, Ireland and the six counties?

16. Question by Mr COMBE (H-834/80)

Subject: Difficulties encountered by European car manufacturers in exporting to Japan

Does the Commission not agree that the enormous difficulties facing European car manufacturers in the form of the constantly changing regulations applied by the Japanese type-approval authorities constitute at least a unilateral protectionist measure if not a clear infringement of the rules of international trade?

17. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-835/80)

Subject: Canned meat

Is the Commission aware, as to the extent which imports into the EEC of canned and prepared meats, which in 1980 amounted to 130.000 tonnes carcase equivalent of 30% of total imports, under the EEC concerning imports, is militating against the meat canning industry in Ireland and is the Commission prepared to implement measures to ameliorate this situation?

18. Question by Mr SCHINZEL (H-838/80)

Subject : Steel quotas

Is it true that steel quotas allocated to the United Kingdom amounting to 300,000 tonnes are not being used ?

19 Question by Mr DFLEAU (H-839/80)

Subject : The Japanese offensive and the European 'wait and see policy'

Now that the Japanese offensive is affecting such widely varying sectors of the economy as the passenger vehicle, goods vehicle, motorcycle, colour television, tape recorder and watch-making industries, does the Commission not think that its reaction so far has been inadequate, and that the decision merely to monitor three key sectors is symptomatic of the Community's present weakness ?

20. Question by Mr BALFE (H-840/80)

Subject: Level of the 'Green Pound'

It is estimated that because of the level of the 'Green Pound', Britain's budgetary contributions to the EEC will be increased by about £ 250.000.000. Can the Commission confirm that this money will be repaid to the British Treasury under the agreement of May 1980?

21. Question by Mr BRØNDLUND NIELSEN (H-842/80)

Subject: Enforcement of Community legislation

It is generally left to the national authorities in the individual Member States to supervise compliance with the legal acts of the Community as with their own national legislation. Does the Commission agree that this supervision varies so widely as regards methods used and resources deployed, and thus efficiency, that certain Community provisions have such varying effects on the conditions under which small firms in particular operate, depending on the country in which they are located, that competition within the Community is distorted? If so, what does it intend to do to remedy this problem?

22. Question by Mr VAN AERSEN (H-845/80)

Subject : Trade disputes under GATT

In view of the fact that the GATT is currently faced with a record number of disputes between the world's largest trading nations, can the Commission state how many of the cases being dealt with by the GATT committees are directed against the Community, and whether there is any prospect of solutions to forestall the danger of 'trade wars' ?

23. Question by Mr FERGUSON (H-846/80)

Subject: Anti-dumping procedures

Does the Commission consider that a proper yardstick for initiating an anti-dumping investigation in respect of a given product could in any circumstances be a comparable product from a single non-EEC manufacturer whose production is incapable of significant extensions, would not be profitable in isolation from other products from the same plant, and is itself too small to affect significantly the world price?

24. Question by Mr JOHNSON (H-847/80)

Subject: Deep sea mining

Can the Commission indicate whether or not the deep sea mining bill now being discussed in the British Parliament was notified to the Commission in accordance with the Environment Information Agreement of March 1973, and also indicate whether it now intends to prepare proposals for a Community deep sea mining regime on a temporary basis while waiting for the conclusion of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference?

25. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-848/80)

Subject: Use of computers in marine navigation

There have been reports in the media that the Community is providing finance for computers which, when used in marine navigation, allow substantial savings to be made of both time and energy. Does not the Commission feel that, in order to reduce transport costs, consideration should be given as a matter of priority to such projects as the 'Adriatic Seaway', which would make land/sea communications between Munich, Greece and the Middle East shorter by 5 days than alternative routes?

26. Question by Mr COTTRELL (H-2/81)

Subject: Severn Estuary Port Zone

The port of Bristol shares the Severn Estuary with a number of ports in South Wales which have received and continue to receive assistance from the Regional Fund. All the ports are equal in competitive status except that Bristol is disadvantaged by lack of United Kingdom Assisted Area status, thus denying the Port of Bristol access to the Regional Fund. A certain competitive advantage thus moves to ports in South Wales, which is unfair in effect and represents a distortion of competition. The Ratepayers of Bristol have made an enormous investment in new port facilities and would reasonably expect equal treatment with South Wales ports where Commission resources are concerned.

Will the Commission therefore recommend to the British Government that for the purposes of Regional Fund investment, a 'Severn Estuary Zone' should be declared under which all ports sharing the estuary will enjoy access to the Regional Fund? In the case of Bristol, such a declaration to apply to the port zone only.

27. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-3/81)

Subject: Foreign students' tuition in the United Kingdom

Can the Commission confirm reports that the tuition fees payable by foreign students have risen by 25% in the United Kingdom?

If so, does it not agree that such a measure adversely affects students who are nationals of the other Member States, particularly in the case of racially disadvantaged students?

28. Question by Mr MØLLER (H-4/81)

Subject: Mutual recognition of test standards

Can the Commission state what efforts have been made to ensure uniform and mutually recognized test standards, provisions on testing, for example in respect of water and sewage, and consequently mutual recognition of the reports by nationally authorised test institutes covering all Member States of the Community?

29. Question by Mrs MACCIOCCHI (H-5/81)

Subject: Suspension of Community food aid to El Salvador

What is to be the Commission's final decision on food aid to El Salvador, which was suspended in February, apparently as a result of American pressure; for what reason has the Commission decided to postpone shipment of such aid, bearing in mind that food aid constitutes humanitarian assistance and hence provides an opportunity to demonstrate that political considerations can be subordinated to the urgent need to help meet the food requirements of the Salvadorian people?

30. Question by Mr TURCAT (H-6/81)

Subject: Exploitation of 'bottom of the well' oil

Various reports on the outcome of research into the exploitation of 'bottom of the well' oil suggest that this would provide new energy resources not only for the Community but also for the world at large.

Would the proposed methods make it possible to recommission wells considered to be exhausted, some of which are on Community territory, and has the Commission been involved, or does it intend to be involved, in this matter?

31. Question by Mr VLAHOPOULOS (H-8/81)

Subject: Special fund for disasters

Would the Commission state whether it will in the future establish a special fund or a special service to provide financial and technical assistance when disasters such as earthquakes, floods, avalanches, etc., occur, so that, with special resources thus available in advance, the special Community fund and not individual Member States will bear the financial burden of such disasters?

32. Question by Mr FANTON (H-9/81)

Subject: Long-term contracts for the provision of food aid to developing countries

With which developing countries does the Commission intend to conclude these contracts, the poorest, the ACP, or Mediterranean countries?

Can the present common agricultural policy meet the entire demand for the supply of food aid; should not a common policy for the export of Community agricultural produce be put in hand straight away?

33. Question by Mrs FOURCADE (H-11/81)

Subject: Implications of the agreements between Spain and Latin America

Can the Commission specify the practical implications of the agreements linking Spain to the Latin-American countries in terms of the movement of manpower and trade? In view of the existing close links between Spain and Latin America, does the Commission intend to propose arrangements for Latin America similar to those granted the ACP or the Mediterranean countries?

34. Question by Mr HUME (H-12/81)

Subject: Price controls applied by the US-Government

Will the Commission report on the discussions it has had with the Government of the United States about the continuing price controls being maintained by that Government in respect of gas, and the repercussions of these price controls upon the textile industry in Europe?

35. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-13/81)

Subject: Conversion language between ADA and other computer languages

What information can the Commission provide on the contracts worth about Dkr 50 million it has concluded with various computer firms. Two of which are Danish, for a conversion language between ADA and other computer languages; and can it confirm the report in the Danish periodical 'Ingeniøren' of 20.2.1981, according to which 'The primary aim was to obtain a common language for the many computer systems used by the armed forces...'?

36. Question by Mr KAPPOS (H-15/81)

Subject: Guarantee of voting rights for Greek emigrants in the countries of western Europe

Is the Commission aware:

- that for Greek emigrants in western Europe the right to exercise their voting rights is not guaranteed?
- that the agreements have not been signed that would allow emigrants wishing to travel to Greece to exercise their voting rights to benefit from facilities such as reduced fares and special leave from work during the elections?
- that no other steps have been taken to guarantee their right to vote?

How could the Commission help solve this pressing problem that now faces Greek emigrants?

37. Question by Mr DALAKOURAS (H-16/81)

Subject: Passport control discrimination in the United Kingdom

Is the Commission aware that, despite Greece's accession from 1 January 1981 as a full member of the European Communities, passport control officials at points of entry into the United Kingdom are continuing to treat Greek travellers in the same way as persons coming from outside the Community and that even the arrival sign 'From EEC Countries' has been replaced by another one bearing the names of the nine Member States only, excluding Greece?

What is the Commission's position with regard to this inadmissible discrimination?

38. Question by Mr KIRK (H-19/81)

Subject: Catch quota for fisheries in 1981

Do the proposals for catch quotas for fisheries in 1981 made by the Commission on 23 October 1980 still stand as the Commission's proposals?

39. Question by Mrs van den HEUVEL (H-26/81)

Subject: Upper limit per family on social security payments

Is the Commission now willing to answer the third paragraph of my written question No. 1756/80¹ by stating whether, in its view, the setting of an upper limit per family on social security payments constitutes indirect discrimination (by reference to family status) within the meaning of the directive?

40. Question by Mr Fernandez (H-27/81)

Subject: Deterioration in the position of pig producers

In view of the substantial fall in the prices obtained by pig producers, does the Commission plan to increase aid for storage to support the markets?

41. Question by Mrs de MARCH (H-30/81)

Subject: Aid for Mediterranean-type glasshouse crops

Does the Commission intend to exercise stricter control over and limit aid for Mediterranean-type crops grown in glasshouses in northern Europe and which are in direct competition with produce from the South?

42. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-33/81)

Subject: Community assistance following coal mine closures

In view of the closure of coal mines that will take place in the Community due to depletion, what plans are the Commission making to ensure that schemes wholly or partly financed by the Community can be introduced as soon as (or before) closures are announced for retraining redundant miners, for assistance for them in finding new jobs and for bringing jobs to the areas affected?

¹ Bulletin No. 57/80 of 17.12.1980, p.9

43. Question by Mr BANGEMANN (H-34/81)

Subject: Marketing standards for poultry and poultrymeat

Under Article 2(2) of the regulation on the common organization of the market in poultrymeat (Council Regulation No. 2777/75 of 29.10.1975, OJ No. L 282, 1975, p. 77), the adoption of marketing standards is compulsory for dead poultry and edible offals thereof, fresh, chilled or frozen.

These standards may relate in particular to grading by quality and weight, packaging, storage, transport, presentation and marking. The adoption of marketing standards for the other products covered by the market in poultry is, however, optional.

Can the Commission say what measures it has taken to date to implement this binding order from the Community legislator; what circumstances have so far prevented the adoption of marketing standards and what efforts is the Commission prepared to make to ensure that the national barriers to trade which still exist owing to the lack of European marketing standards are removed as soon as possible?

44. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-39/81)

Subject: Channel Tunnel

Does the Commission not agree that the question of a link between the United Kingdom and the continent is a matter that concerns not merely France and the United Kingdom but is in fact particularly important for the transport infrastructure of the Community as a whole and does the Commission therefore not feel that it should take steps to develop as a Community project the new initiatives for the building of a Channel Tunnel which have now been taken by the British and French authorities?

45. Question by Mr BOYES (H-41/81)

Subject : South Africa's Energy Supplies

In view of the South African Government's policy of apartheid would the Commission comment on the recent statement by Mr G.W.H. Relly (deputy chairman of the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa):

'As far as energy is concerned South Africa's supply to the EEC has already assumed considerable importance and this is likely to grow. Emphasis on coal as an energy resource is growing and South Africa now equals Poland as the major external supplier to the EEC...?'

46. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-47/81)

Subject: New quota system

At present, a number of non-member countries are applying a new quota system which differentiates between 'developed' and 'low-wage' countries. Does the Commission plan to introduce such a system for sectors where it is warranted and for the footwear and textile sectors in particular?

47. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-49/81)¹

Subject: Improvement of common transport infrastructures by means of the various Community funds

Does the Commission not think that greater use should be made of available instruments such as the various Community funds so as to further the improvement of common transport infrastructures, which are essential to European development?

48. Question by Lord O'HAGAN (H-52/81)

Subject: Cider tax

Does the Commission intend to bring in a tax on cider?

¹Will not be called if item 44 is kept on the agenda

49. Question by Mr COLLA (H-54/81)

Subject : Adjustment of exchange rates within the European Monetary System

A spokesman for the Frankfurt institute for economic and financial research (IFO) has stated that an adjustment of the exchange rates within the European Monetary System (EMS) is inevitable and will take place in May at the latest, involving a revaluation of the German mark and a devaluation of the French and Belgian francs.

Does the Commission agree with this view and does it feel that such measures are really necessary?

50. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-56/81)

Subject: Information regarding the ERDF

Will the Commission undertake from now on to put into the hands of members of the European Parliament, before its release to the press, information regarding all grants from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to projects and programmes in their Member States, giving, for each project and programme, the value of the grant, the total cost of the project or programme, its nature and purpose and the planned starting and completion dates?

51. Question by Mrs DESMOND (H-59/81)

Subject : Community action in the field of Adult Education

What role can the Commission play in the evolution of a Community Policy on Adult and Permanent Education, and does it intend to make any proposals in the area of paid educational leave?

52. Question by Mr PRICE (H-60/81)

Subject : VAT and Charitable Bodies

Are the Commission willing to propose a Directive on VAT which would permit Member States to exempt charitable bodies from the payment of VAT on goods purchased by them or services supplied to them?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

53. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-664/80)

Subject: A new international effort to increase energy production

The Venice Summit called for a major international effort to help the developing countries increase their energy production and expressed the belief that this view was gaining ground among oil exporting countries. What steps have the Council taken to implement this call in the dialogue with oil exporting countries?

54. Question by Mrs EWING (H-783/80)

Subject: Common fisheries policy

Will the Council make a statement on the state of negotiations for a common fisheries policy?

55. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-785/80)

Subject: European passport

Is it true that the introduction of the European passport, which is already long overdue, is at present being held up on technical grounds by the United Kingdom?

56. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLOU (H-800/80)

Subject: Right to vote in municipal elections for subjects of
Member States who reside in other Member States

A substantial number of subjects of Member States reside in other Member States. Giving these persons the right to vote in municipal elections would not only be a contribution towards European integration but would also make municipal authorities more sensitive towards the problems of these people. Does the Council share this view?

57. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-707/80)

Subject : Renunciation of Luxembourg Compromise 1966

Will the Council now implement the agreement reached at the Paris Summit in 1974 that it is necessary to renounce the practice of making agreement on all questions conditional on the unanimous consent of the Member States, while retaining a right of veto, as was originally foreseen, only for substantial questions of vital national interest?

58. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-738/80)

Subject : Commission proposals outstanding

Can the Council indicate the number of Commission proposals on which it has still to make a decision? How many of these items have been pending for over two years?

59. Question by Mr ADAM (H-770/80)

Subject: Coal demand in 2000

It has recently been stated by the Energy Department of the United Kingdom Government that the coal demand in the year 2000 is likely to fall to 155 million tonnes, which represents a downward revision from the previous figure of 170 million tonnes. This comes at a time when future demand for coal is reckoned by all the experts to be increasing. Does the Council accept that this is a realistic assessment?

60. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-776/80)

Subject: Installation of Community archives at the European Institute in Florence

The plan to install the Community archives at the European Institute in Florence would make it possible to set up a research centre which will be very useful for historians and for the work of the European Parliament; it would also make an important contribution to the formation of a model of European society.

Can the Council confirm that the archives will be transferred to Florence next year?

61. Question by Ms QUIN (H-795/80)

Subject: Income support for workers aged 55 and over leaving the shipbuilding industry

Will the Council make a statement about the progress made in consideration of the Commission proposal to provide income support for workers aged 55 and over leaving the shipbuilding industry - a proposal which was welcomed by the European Parliament at its December 1980 part-session?

62. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-828/80)

Subject: Chile

In view of the report of the European Parliament on Chile, which urged Member States to suspend economic and military aid, has the Council any comment to make on the recent statements made by the U.K. Government that they hope for improved trade and economic relations with Chile and that they have reduced tariffs, lifted credit cover, lifted some embargoes and re-established diplomatic relations with the fascist Junta of General Pinochet?

63. Question by Mr OEHLER (H-833/80)

Subject : Applications for loans under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty

Does the Council agree that it is not clear from the answer to my Oral Question H-712/80 what the basis was for the applications by the Member States under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty, bearing in mind that the ECSC budget does not contain the necessary funds for these applications ; that the Council is opposed to the transfer of appropriations from the budget to the ECSC budget ; and that even if such a transfer could be carried out, the Commission assesses the funds available to meet these applications at 157 m.u.a. over three years, whereas the total of applications from France, the United Kingdom and Belgium amounts to over 600 m.u.a.

64. Question by Mr DE FERRANTI (H-843/80)

Subject: Full implementation of the internal market

Is it correct that no less than 20 directives affecting billions of units of account of intra Community trade are held up because some Member States believe that a Community type approval test would restrict imports from third countries whereas other Member States believe that it would make importing too easy and is it not true that the lack of a decision is depriving the Community of an important reduction of internal barriers affecting billions of units of account of trade and of a powerful negotiating position in relation to imports from and exports to third countries?

65. Question by Mr VON WOGAU (H-844/80)

Subject: Full implementation of the internal market

Does the Council prefer commercial agreements with the major third countries to the proposal from the Commission to introduce special Community specification procedures for products originating in third countries¹ and what are the prospects of obtaining such agreements?

¹ OJ No. C 54, 4.3.1980

Does the Council consider that its decision of 15 January 1980 laying down provisions on the introduction and implementation of technical regulations and standards¹ is a useful instrument in commercial negotiations with Japan and other third countries concerning import and export of especially motor cars, chips and television tubes?

66. Question by Mr TURCAT (H-7/81)

Subject: Possible consequences of large-scale supply of Soviet gas to the Ten

The question of the USSR-EEC gas pipeline has recently been raised on several occasions.

Can the Council state plainly whether it considers that the supply of Member States with Soviet gas on a very large scale leaves no opening whatever for political pressure by the USSR, and whether Community financial instruments can be used for this project?

67. Question by Mr DALZIEL (H-10/81)

Subject: Insurance services

When does the Council intend to introduce measures, whether in the context of the draft insurance services directive currently being considered by it, or otherwise, to ensure that third party insurance for motor vehicles may be provided by an insurer established in the Community but not established in the country in which the vehicle is normally based?

68. Question by Mr VIE (H-22/81)

Subject: Renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement

Why did the Council in its belief to the Commission on the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement give no instructions on the inclusion of a clause on the non-use of child labour in the textile industries of third countries, this being an ILO standard which I understood the Commission had decided to include in EEC agreements with non-associated countries?

¹ OJ No. L 14, 19.1.1980

69. Question by Mr JOHNSON (H-24/81)

Subject: Law of the Sea

In view of the reports that the United States intends to block possible agreement at the current session of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference apparently under pressure from deep sea mining companies which regard the existing draft treaty as unfavourable to their interests, can the Council indicate what stance is being adopted by the EEC to indicate their extreme disappointment at this development?

70. Question by Mr MARTIN (H-28/81)

Subject: Intra-Community trade in wine

For several weeks, massive imports of Italian wine into France have depressed sales and the prices of French wines. It would appear that Community measures are not fulfilling their function in Italy but are benefiting the large French and Italian wine merchants to the detriment of the French and Italian wine growers. To counteract this situation, does the Council intend to introduce a minimum price for intra-Community trade, as provided for under the regulations?

71. Question by Mr FRANCHERE (H-29/81)

Subject: Coresponsibility levy

Could the Council clarify whether the mandate of 30 May 1980 provided for the adoption of the principle of generalized coresponsibility to limit agricultural expenditure?

72. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-31/81)

Subject: Respect for the Community preference in respect of tobacco production

Community tobacco production is facing increasing competition from imports of tobacco at preferential rates in defiance of the principle of Community preference and with serious consequences for planters - reduction in acreages, fall in incomes. Does the Council intend to introduce a tax based on the percentage of Community tobacco in manufactured products so as to ensure that Community preference is respected?

73. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-32/81)

Subject: Energy pricing

Is the Council concerned about discrepancies in the energy pricing policies between different Member States?

74. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-36/81)

Subject : Research programme in the ceramics sector

Following the favorable opinion delivered by the European Parliament on the Community research programme in the ceramics sector, can the Council indicate the obstacles which are preventing the adoption of this programme, which should have entered into force in January 1980 ?

75. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-37/81)

Subject : Social measures in the iron and steel industry

At the March part-session the Council stated that this matter would be raised at its meeting of 26 March and that every effort would be made to reach a decision. What is the outcome and what are the prospects ?

76. Question by Mr BOYES (H-46/81)

Subject: Male midwives

With special reference to the training of male midwives would the President-in-Office inform Parliament which Member States are not carrying out Council Directive 76/707/EEC of 9th February 1976?

77. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-48/81)

Subject: Development of the European Monetary System and public issues of ECUs

What is the Council's reaction to the recent statement by the chairman of the European Monetary Committee concerning public issues of ECUs in the form of coinage and travellers' cheques?

78. Question by Mr KAPPOS (H-51/81)

Subject: Consequences of the imposition of steel production quotas

Is the Council aware that the imposition of steel production quotas is having distressing consequences for the Greek steel industry and those working in it?

Is it aware that the Greek industry is planning to dismiss 30 to 50% of its workers in order to achieve this it is getting rid of the union officials?

Is the Council able to inform us what subsidies have been given to the Greek steel undertakings and on what terms?

79. Question by Mr COLLA (H-53/81)

Subject : Adjustment of exchange rates within the European Monetary System

A spokesman for the Frankfurt institute for economic and financial research (IFO) has stated that an adjustment of the exchange rates within the European Monetary System (EMS) is inevitable and will take place in May at the latest, involving a revaluation of the German mark and a devaluation of the French and Belgian francs.

Does the Council agree with this view and does it feel that such measures are really necessary?

80. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-58/81)

Subject : Outcome of Fisheries' Council

Will the Council outline the results of its most recent deliberations on a Common Fisheries Policy?

QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

81. Question by Mrs EWING (H-464/80)

Subject : United Nations' Convention on Elimination of
Discrimination against Women

Will the ministers deplore the failure of the United Kingdom to sign the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women adopted by the U.N. Assembly in December 1979, and state whether they will seek to influence the U.K. to sign the Convention as other EEC Member States have done?

82. Question by Mr WELSH (H-832/80)

Subject: Representation of Member States within the Community

What is the combined number employed in, and the approximate combined annual cost of running the embassies of the Member States in the other Member States?

83. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-14/81)

Subject: Cooperation between the US Department of Defense, the European Community and the NATO Countries

What information can the foreign ministers give on the cooperation that has taken place between the US Department of Defense, the European Community and NATO? In a letter dated 14 May 1979 the US Secretary of Defense stated that such cooperation had taken place. (This letter was reported in the periodical Sigplan Notices, volume 14, No. 6, June 1979).

84. Question by Mr BALFE (H-17/81)

Subject: Violation of human rights within the Community

Following my question H-818/80¹ and realizing the grave concern of many European citizens regarding the violation of human rights by Member States, will the ministers undertake to look at ways in which human rights violations within the Community can be afforded the same level of publicity and debate as violations of human rights outside the EEC?

85. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-38/81)

Subject : Repression in Chile

Have the ministers agreed to make and have they made representations on behalf of the Chilean trade unionists Mrs Miriam Ortega Araxa, Mr Victor Ortega Araxa, Mrs Carmen Escobar Gonzales, Mr Carlos Garcia Herrera and Mr Rodolfo Rodriguez Moraga called for in the resolution adopted by Parliament in March ?

86. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-40/81)

Subject: Arms supplies to the People's Republic of China and Taiwan

Are the Ministers aware of the fact that the People's Republic of China is taking diplomatic sanctions against the Netherlands because of the delivery of two submarines to Taiwan by a Dutch shipyard whereas, as a rule, China does not react to arms supplies to Taiwan from other Member States and would the Ministers therefore not consider it appropriate for the Ten to agree on a common policy in this respect in the context of political cooperation?

¹ Question Time, March 1981

87. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-45/81)

Subject: Political developments in Malta

Have the foreign ministers discussed the closure of the Times of Malta and the arrest of the deputy leader of the opposition?

88. Question by Mr Gérard ISRAËL (H-57/81)

Subject: European Middle East peace initiative

Can the Ministers say whether or not the assertion that in the view of the Ten the organization known as the 'Palestine Liberation Organization' must, whatever the circumstances, be unconditionally involved in the peace negotiations is consistent with the declaration of Venice (June 1980)?

